

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicants have canceled claims 1-29. Claims 30-43 have been added. Accordingly, claims 30-43 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

In paragraphs 5-6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Applicants have canceled claims 1-20 and 29.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

In paragraphs 7-8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 13, 14, 17-20, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Ericsson (WO 99/16266). The Applicants have canceled claims 1-7, 13, 14, 17-20, and 29.

4.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In paragraphs 9-10 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 8-12, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ericsson in view of "An Architecture for Differentiated Services" (Blake). The Applicants have canceled claims 8-12, 15, and 16.

In paragraph 11 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ericsson in view of Mikkonen (US 6,587,457). The Applicants have canceled claims 15 and 16.

5.) New Claims

The Applicants have rewritten the claims to better distinguish the claimed invention from Ericsson, Blake, and Mikkonen. Allowance of new claims 30-43 is respectfully requested.

In Ericsson, an application creates a data flow and sends it to a gateway node together with a requested Quality of Service (QoS). The gateway node maps network layer QoS parameters (i.e., IP QoS parameters) associated with the data flow to circuit-switched parameters if the flow is mapped to the circuit-switched network, and to packet-switched parameters if the flow is mapped to the packet-switched network. (See tables on page 24). A circuit-switched bearer may be allocated if the request is for a real time service, and a packet-switched bearer may be allocated if the request is for a non-real time service. (Abstract; page 9, line 22 through page 10, line 6). Thus, the gateway node operates as a router, directing the application data flow to the appropriate type of network.

The claimed invention, on the other hand, operates as an interworking node between a circuit-switched network and a packet-switched network. When it is desired to transport, for example, a circuit-switched call over a packet-switched network, the interworking node obtains the level of precedence assigned to the call in the circuit-switched network, and maps the circuit-switched precedence level to a corresponding level of precedence utilized for a data stream within the packet-switched network. The payload data is then forwarded across a network boundary between the circuit-switched network and the packet-switched network, and the payload data is then transported in the packet-switched network with a precedence level corresponding to the mapped precedence level from the circuit-switched network.

The invention is also applicable to calls moving across the network boundary in the opposite direction, i.e., from the packet-switched network to the circuit-switched network.

The Ericsson reference does not teach or suggest directly mapping between circuit-switched quality parameters and packet-switched quality parameters. Blake was cited for disclosing that ATM and Frame Relay are label-switching protocols, and thus is not relevant to rewritten claims 30-43, which do not use this terminology. Mikkonen

discloses the use of MPLS label switching, but does not teach or suggest directly mapping between circuit-switched quality parameters and packet-switched quality parameters, as claimed by the Applicants.

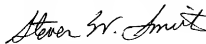
Therefore, the allowance of new claims 30-43 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 30-41.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 1-20-2006

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